

## Desert Diamond - 23

**FA:** Maarten Venter, Richard Morsbach 2022

**Description:** The route follows the natural line up Pontok 4 Spitzkoppe. It is a mixed route with some pitches trad and some bolted and some a combination of both. The route will have all day shade in May, June, July and August. It is recommended to take water along as the route is 475m long and can take a full day of climbing.

### **Pitch 1 - 25m "23" - Mixed (Trad & 5 Bolts)**

Start in the crack make one or two trad placements to get onto the face. Traverse to the left with 5 bolts up to a belay anchor. The first three bolts can be aided as the rest of the route is moderate difficulty. This is not an abseil anchor, please refer to the "abseil topo".

### **Pitch 2 - 45m "20" - Sport (11 Bolts)**

Continue up the face to the left for 40m. The pitch ends with a boulder problem.

### **Pitch 3 - 55m "19" - Sport (14 Bolts)**

Face climb the slab up to a foot hole for a stance.

### **Pitch 4 - 30m "20" - Sport (5 Bolts)**

Traverse to the left to a belay stance. This is not a abseil anchor please refer to the "abseil topo".

### **Pitch 5 - 30m "16" - Trad (1 Bolt)**

Start the climb past one bolt into the crack system. Climb up to a belay stance.

### **Pitch 6 - 45m "20" - Trad (2 Bolts)**

Continue up the crack, past a cave. The cave can either be face climbed or chimneyed. When there is no more placements use the bolt to protect. Skip the second bolt to reduce rope drag. This bolt can be used when abseiling down the route to prevent the first climber from swinging down the cliff. Continue up the crack past another bolt up to a belay stance. This pitch has superb face climbing.

### **Pitch 7 - 40m "20" - Trad (2 Bolts)**

Continue up the crack with lay back moves and face climbing up to a belay stance. The majority of the the trad gear can be left at this anchor as only a few cams is needed for the next pitch. The trad gear can be collected again when abseiling down the route.

### **Pitch 8 - 30m "19" - Mixed (5 Bolts)**

Complete the last part of the crack system ending with bolts. The rest of the route is bolted and no more trad gear is needed. Please note that this is not a abseil anchor please refer to the "abseil topo" and no trad gear should be left at this anchor.

### **Pitch 9 - 30m "19" - Sport (8 Bolts)**

Climb the water streak to an anchor. This pitch and the next pitch can be linked. But it is recommended to belay the next boulder pitch from the next anchor.

**Pitch 10 - 20m "21" - Sport (10 Bolts)**

Climb the face to an overhang rock. Do a boulder move onto the upper face that leads to the summit.

**Pitch 11 - 20m "17" - Sport (7 Bolts)**

Climb past the boulders on the left to a stance.

**Pitch 12 - 50m "16" - Sport (11 Bolts)**

Traverse left and climb up the river gully.

**Pitch 13 - 55m "15" - Sport (8 Bolts)**

Continue up the river gully until the summit is reached.

**Gear Required**

**Trad Rack:** Full Trad rack from Camelot 4 down to 0.3 and an extra number 1,2 and 3 Camelot.

**Nuts:** A single set of small nuts

**Draws:** 14 Quick Draws excluding ones needed at the anchors.

**Slings:** 4 x 120cm slings is recommended.

**Ropes:** Two 60m ropes is needed to abseil down the route and a prusik is recommend for abseiling down the boulder problem on pitch 10 and the crack system pitch 5, 6, 7 and 8.

**Abseil**

Please see abseil topo for details. All abseil anchors are marked in green and belay only anchors are marked in white.